

Flowerfield Arts Centre

January - April 2025



Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council



Flowerfield Arts Centre

➤ **“A great asset to the community on the North Coast and beyond.”**



Paddy McKeown

Flowerfield Arts Centre



We strive to nurture artistic talent and provide exceptional interactive creative opportunities for all.

The only dedicated multi-disciplinary Arts Centre on the stunning Causeway Coast, come visit us in Flowerfield Park, just a quick two-minute drive from Portstewart Promenade.

Have fun in the Diversity Playpark, before taking some time to relax with us - enjoy a picnic on our outdoor piazza, spend some time with our world-class exhibitions, savour our live gigs and family theatre, sit back and immerse yourself in superb films or get creative in one of our many workshops.

Our facilities include a 130-seater performance space, three main galleries, and dedicated craft studios

for ceramics and glass as well as classrooms and a boardroom. With free Wi-Fi, free car parking right outside our door and refreshments available, we want you to feel at home here at Flowerfield and we look forward to welcoming you.

We are open

Monday to Friday, 9.30am-5pm
Wednesday & Thursday evenings,
7-9pm
Saturday, 10am-1pm

Flowerfield Arts Centre
185 Coleraine Road
Portstewart BT55 7HU
Telephone: 028 7083 1400
Email: info@flowerfield.org

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Ottilie

Exhibitions

Here, There & Them

Contemporary Irish Art

from the Arts Council NI Collection

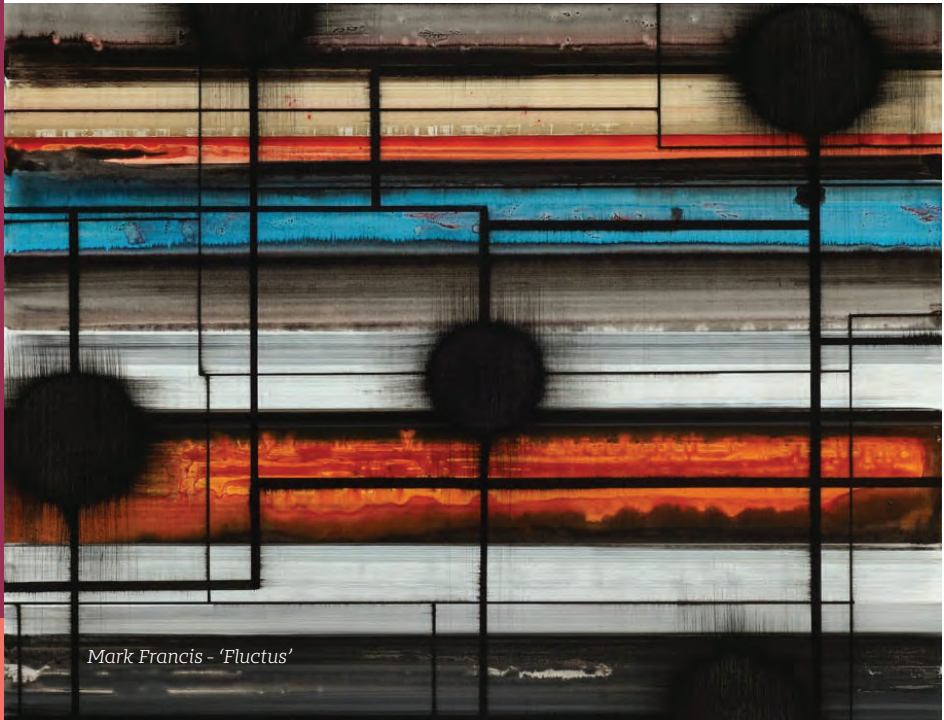
11 January - 1 March

Exhibition Launch: Saturday 11 January | 12 noon | Free Admission |

All welcome

Join representatives from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Collections and Acquisitions team who will introduce the collection and give a guided tour of the work.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Collection represents artists at the forefront of visual arts practice. This curated selection of work captures contemporary artists' interpretations of place in the present and beyond time and place. Across mediums such as sculpture, installation and painting, this eclectic, dynamic and vibrant exhibition includes the work of acclaimed artists such as Ronnie Hughes, Felim Egan, Alastair MacLennan, Clement McAleer and more.



➤ *“Emotional, inspirational
and creative.”*

Thin Place

Bob Speers

15 March – 26 April

Exhibition Launch: Saturday 15 March | 7pm | Free Admission |

All welcome

Please join us for this special launch evening. Bob will answer questions about his work, inspiration and methods and will perform music inspired by his wanderings through Irish boglands.

Thin Place - where the veil between the physical and the transcendental appears permeable or “thin”. Peatlands (bogs) are considered to have this special characteristic where there is a connection between the material and the numinous.

Bob Speer’s unique work includes material taken from bogs across Ireland and uses commercial paints and discarded household fabrics. The work evokes ethereal abstracted landscapes and moments that speak to the ancient and the contemporary without conflict. His paintings are visual representations of that mystical space between our tangible world and the unseen world.

Talk: Professor Jonathan Pilcher provides a fascinating talk on the environmental and cultural significance of peatlands on Wednesday 19 March – visit page 11 for details.



The Way I See It

Causeway & Mid-Ulster Women's Aid

8 March - 26 April | Upper Gallery

Exhibition Launch: Saturday 8 March | 12 noon | Free Admission |

All welcome

Join speakers from Causeway & Mid Ulster Women's Aid & Poet/Writer, Anne McMaster, as they help open the exhibition

Featuring twenty-six unique photographs produced by associates of Causeway & Mid Ulster Women's Aid (Coleraine), the resulting images capture a snippet of life through the eyes of each individual woman. As part of this exhibition, writers will be invited to respond to the meaningful and poignant photographs exhibited.



Events

Monday Matinee Golden Oldies

Monday 27 January | **Some Like It Hot (1959)**

Monday 24 February | **Bringing Up Baby (1938)**

Monday 31 March | **An Affair To Remember (1957)**

Monday 28 April | **Roman Holiday (1953)**

2-4pm (Doors 1.45pm) | Tickets £5

FILM

These screenings are in our auditorium with unreserved tiered seating

Mark your diaries for the last Monday each month when we're screening all-time classic golden oldies. For a few hours of sheer escapism, sit back, forget your worries and let yourself be transported back to the golden era of Hollywood glamour and drama.



Northern Lights Sessions

Ronnie Greer Blues Band

with Special Guest Ken Haddock

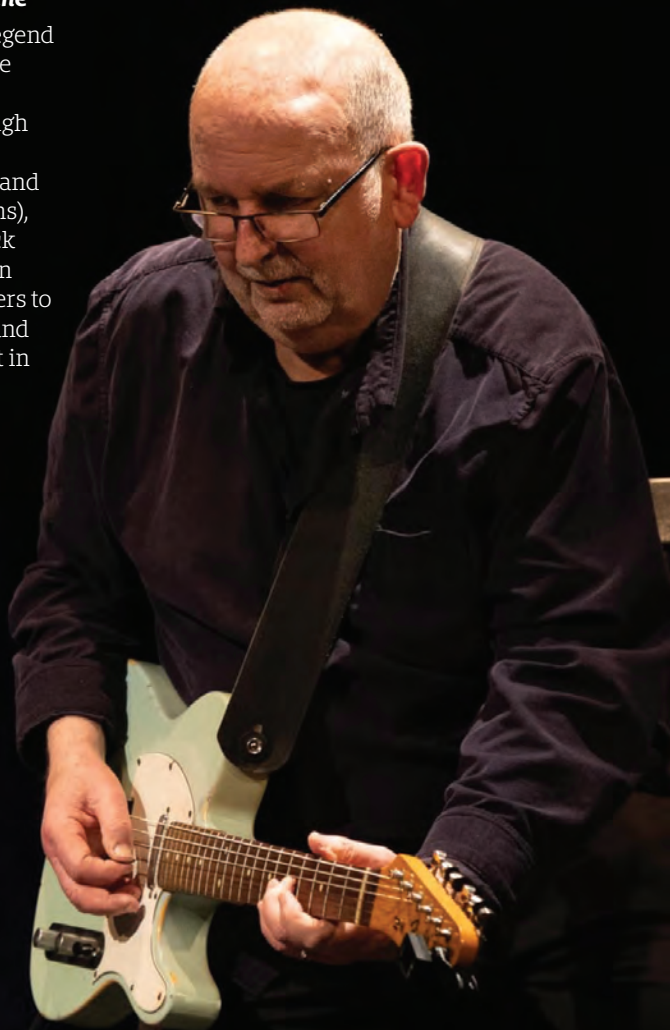
Saturday 22 February | 8pm (Doors 7.30pm) | Tickets £22 full, £20 concession

LIVE
MUSIC

This event is unreserved tiered seating

This is a magnificent band... world class - *Blues in Britain Magazine*

Award-winning blues guitar legend Ronnie Greer makes a welcome return to Flowerfield with his band featuring John McCullough (keyboards), Nick Scott (bass guitar), Anthony Toner (guitar and vocals), Peter McKinney (drums), and special guest Ken Haddock on vocals and guitar. Expect an eclectic mix from Muddy Waters to Steely Dan, played with style and conviction by some of the best in the business.



Northern Lights Sessions

Múlú, Gráinne Meyer & Paddy McKeown



Friday 7 March | 8pm (Doors 7.30pm) | Admission free but booking essential

Featuring three of the best emerging Irish musical artists, this incredible gig is part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025. Múlú (Miadhachlughain O'Donnell), a singer/songwriter from Castlewellan, is also a member of *Biird*, *Afro Celt Sound System*, and *Huartan*. Paddy McKeown is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and visual artist. Belfast-based, County Antrim composer, harpist and pianist Gráinne Meyer is the most recent winner of the World Music Competition.

This activity has received financial support from The Executive Office through Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council's Good Relations Programme.



“Wonderful to have acts of this quality coming to Portstewart - Flowerfield is a great local venue.”

Foscadh

Thursday 13 March | 7–9pm | Admission free but booking essential

Meet the Director: Seán Breathnach will introduce the screening, offering invaluable insight into the development and making of this highly-acclaimed film.

Based on Dónal Ryan’s 2013 novel, *The Thing About December*, *Foscadh* is an insightful, powerful look at a man on the margins. John Cuniffe, played by Dónall Ó Héalaí, is a young man sheltered from much of life until his parents die. The wild and bleak Connemara landscape is the backdrop for *Foscadh*, as beautiful and lonely as it is. The film premiered at the 2021 Galway Film Fleadh and was the Irish entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards. This screening is part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025.

Irish with English subtitles | 2022 | 1 hr 33 mins

This activity has received financial support from The Executive Office through Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council’s Good Relations Programme.

FILM

➤ **“Great venue,
attentive staff.”**

Bogs | A Window Into the Past and Hope for the Future

A Talk by Professor Jonathan Pilcher

Wednesday 19 March | 7-8.45pm | Tickets £3

Within the setting of Bob Speers' 'Thin Place' exhibition, Jonathan Pilcher - Emeritus Professor in the School of the Natural and Built Environment, Queens University - gives a fascinating outline of the history of the bog environment. Our heightened understanding of climate change now enables the true value of bogs to be appreciated and informs their future. Professor Pilcher is the author of *Flora Hibernica* and over 130 scientific articles on the history of the Irish environment.



TALK

OTTILIE

Written by Philip Johnston

Saturday 22 March | 8-9pm (Doors 7.30pm) | Tickets £15, £12 concession

This theatre event is in our auditorium with unreserved tiered seating

Featuring her music, 'Ottilie' traces the life of one of Northern Ireland's most prolific blues artists. Hailed as the greatest blues singer in the UK and Ireland during the 1950-60s, Otilie Patterson (1932-2011) was born in Comber, County Down, and achieved international success with the Chris Barber Band, sharing the stage with greats including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Muddy Waters and Sister Rosetta Tharpe.

Written and directed by Philip Johnston and featuring Rosaleen Agnew, this production celebrates Otilie's incredible achievements and life in vivid and memorable detail.



THEATRE

One Mountain: Sold

Friday 28 March | 7.30pm (Doors 7pm) | Tickets £12 full, £10 concession

This event is cabaret style and BYOB

Poet Cherry Smyth presents a poetry and music performance responding to a proposed gold mine that threatens to destroy an area of outstanding beauty in the Sperrins. This event vividly portrays the devastating ecological consequences of mining on the mountain's delicate ecosystem. Cherry will be accompanied by award-winning vocalist Lauren Kinsella.

SPOKEN
WORD



Northern Lights Sessions

The Boondocks

Saturday 5 April | 8pm (Doors 7.30pm) | Tickets £15 full, £12 concession

This event is cabaret style and BYOB

The Boondocks bring to life old school country music you love, including the songs of Hank Williams, Glen Campbell, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, Gram Parsons, Merle Haggard, John Prine and Townes Van Zandt. Beautiful melodies, touching words, soaring harmonies and intricate solos, featuring Mark Crockard (vocals and acoustic guitar), Marcus McAuley (acoustic guitar and mandolin) and Anthony Toner (vocals, electric and acoustic guitar).

LIVE
MUSIC



Make + Do for Kids & Young People

Book via our website, call our Box Office team on 028 7083 1400 or pop in to pay.

We want to make sure that all children and young people participate in an enjoyable and safe environment. Therefore, please complete and return **consent forms for each under-18 no later than 24 hours before the activity begins**. Completed consent forms are a condition of participation.

The best creativity is messy! Please make sure your child wears suitable clothing.

Weekend Wonders Workshops

Saturday 25 January | Chinese New Year

Saturday 15 March | Irish Language Week

Saturday 22 March | Mother's Day

Saturday 12 April | Easter

Cost £7 | Tutor: Linda Mulholland

10-11.30am for 5-7 yrs

11.45am-1.15pm for 8-12 yrs

Children get to dive into inspired 'Wonder Weekends' experimenting with a mix of artistic materials and learning fantastic creative skills for a whole range of special occasions and themes.



Have a go Throwing for Teens 12-16 yrs

Saturday 8 February | 10.30am-12.30pm

Cost £30 | Tutor: Fiona Shannon

In this taster session you will learn the basics of throwing on the pottery wheel in an easy going, skilled environment. Pots will be fired for collection at a later date.

Please bring apron and wear clothes that you won't mind getting a little messy. It is advisable to cut your nails short for this class.



Colour Magic! Art Club

Wednesday 12 - Friday 14 February

Cost £30 | Tutor: Linda Mulholland

10am-12noon for 5-7 yrs

1-3pm for 8-12 yrs

Join this special half term art club with a Science Week theme. Three days of workshops packed with experiments in colour and ingredients where art meets science.



Kids Clay St Patricks Day for 8-12 yrs

Saturday 15 March | 10.30am-12.30pm

Cost £20 | Tutor: Fiona Shannon

Kids will design and make a cute leprechaun and their own pot of gold, perfect for all of their treasure.



Fused Glass Easter Egg Hanging

Decorations for 8-12 yrs

Saturday 5 April | 10am-12noon

Cost £30 | Tutor: Natasha Duddy

Each participant will design and produce three glass egg decorations to give as a special Easter gift or hang at home.

Closed footwear must be worn for safety.



➤ *“Local with accessible access for great classes and cultural events.”*

Kids Clay Easter Workshop for 8-12 yrs

Saturday 19 April | 10am-12noon

Cost £20 | Tutor: Fiona Shannon

Creative kids will make Easter themed ceramics including bunny/chick bowls for all of their Easter treats. Made from air drying clay, all creations can be taken home and painted – participants should bring a box to transport their work safely.



Two-Day Throw & Turn for Teens 12-16 yrs

Wednesday 23 & Thursday 24 April | 10.30am-12.30pm

Cost £55 | Tutor: Fiona Shannon

Fiona leads creative teens in two days of learning throwing and turning pottery techniques. All work will be fired before collection at a later date.



Make + Do for Adults

Book via our website, call our Box Office team on 028 7083 1400 or pop in to pay. All course costs include materials unless otherwise specified. All adult courses are suitable for participants aged 18+ years unless otherwise stated in the individual workshop information. Please wear suitable clothing for creative workshops. Please visit www.flowerfield.org for full workshop details including any materials you may be required to bring.

Textiles at Flowerfield Stitching Together | The Art of Repair

Course 1 | Thursday 16 & 30 January,

13 & 27 February | 10am-12.30pm

Course 2 | Thursday 13 & 27 March,

10 & 24 April | 10am-12.30pm

Cost for each course: £60 full, £55 concession

Tutor: Helen Walshaw



Winter has always been the season of mending, traditional repair stitching and its creative textile potential. From darning and hand-pieced patchwork to the eastern stitch families of *kantha* and *sashiko* – anything is possible with visible mending! Materials are provided but you are encouraged to bring items of your own to mend or salvaged fabrics to upcycle and embellish.

Tiffany-Style Glass Woodland Cottage

Saturday 25 January | 10am-1.30pm

Cost £60 full, £55 concession

Tutor: E-J McCartney

Learn wonderful and intricate Tiffany-Style glass techniques to create a gorgeous delicate little woodland cottage, surrounded by trees, ready to take away on the day with a wood stand provided. Suitable for beginners or experienced.



“What an excellent class – something really different!”

Fused Glass Mandala-Inspired Suncatcher

Wednesday 29 January | 6.30-8.30pm

Cost £45 full, £42 concession | Tutor: Natasha Duddy

Design and create your own beautiful glass art mandala inspired suncatchers. Natasha will teach you how to cut glass and add coloured frits and stringers to your final design.



Landscapes | Painting Sea and Sky

Thursday 30 January & 6, 20, 27 February | 7-9pm

Cost £80 full, £75 concession | Tutor: Sarah Carrington

Learn different painting and mixed media techniques to describe the elements of the sea and the sky through landscape painting. These sessions are studio based at Flowerfield. Check our website for a full list of materials to bring.



5-Week Throwing Course for Beginners & Improvers

Series 1 | Wednesday 5 February–5 March | 2.30-4.30pm

Series 2 | Thursday 6 February–6 March | 10am-12noon

Series 3 | Thursday 6 February–6 March | 7-9pm

Series 4 | Wednesday 19 March – 16 April | 2.30-4.30pm

Series 5 | Wednesday 19 March – 16 April | 7-9pm

Series 6 | Thursday 20 March – 17 April | 10.30am-12.30pm

Series 7 | Thursday 20 March – 17 April | 7-9pm

Cost: £155 full, £140 concession per series (includes all materials)

Tutor: Fiona Shannon

Learn the basics of throwing on the pottery wheel to create a variety of different pots, mugs and bowls, including turning techniques and how to add handles and feet. After adding your glaze, your stoneware pieces will be fired before collection.

Please bring an apron. It is advisable to cut your nails short for this class



5-Week Hand-building Course for Beginners and Improvers

Series 1 | Thursday 6 February – 6 March | 2.30–4.30pm

Series 2 | Thursday 20 March – 17 April | 2.30–4.30pm

Cost £155 full, £140 concession | Tutor: Fiona Shannon

Master hand-building techniques like slab building, coiling, pinch pots and press moulds to craft pots, vases and bowls before adding colour with vibrant slips. Items will be fired and clear-glazed before collection.

Please wear old clothes, bring an apron, and keep nails short.



The Art of Still Life in Oils

Thursday 6, 20 February & 6 March | 10am-1pm

Cost £60 full, £55 concession | Tutor: Elaine Harkness

After studying monochrome painting to capture directional light, you'll build upon this knowledge to create your own unique still life painting. Please note these workshops run on alternate weeks. Please bring your own oil painting brushes, all other materials will be supplied.

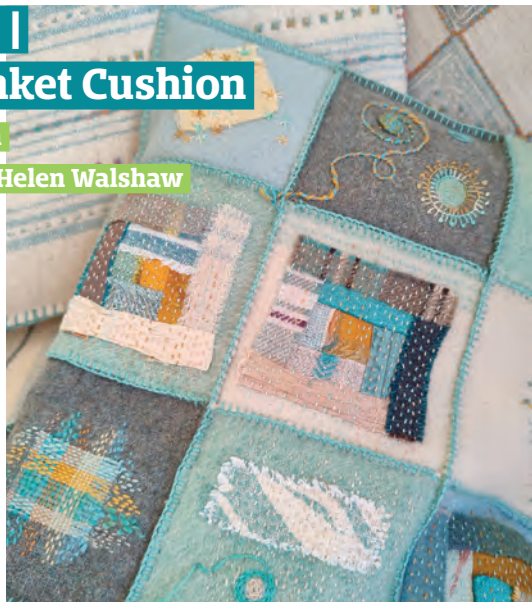


Textiles at Flowerfield | Crafting a Vintage Blanket Cushion

Saturday 8 & 15 February | 10am-1pm

Cost £45 full, £40 concession | Tutor: Helen Walshaw

Make a gorgeous new cushion from pre-loved, washed and lightly felted woollen blanket material using various stitching, darning and patching techniques. A choice of materials will be supplied, from wool and tweed to silk and repurposed blanket edging, together with a fabulous range of yarns and embroidery threads.





“This course really gave me confidence.”

Monoprint Masterclass

Saturday 15 & 22 February | 10am-12.30pm

Cost: £60 full, £55 concession | Tutor: Ivan Frew

Join artist Ivan Frew in this two-part masterclass to create unique, painterly prints experimenting with multi-plate printing from textured plates, the use of mixed media and collage, and combining monoprint with other printmaking techniques. Suitable for beginners or experienced artists.



Damian Gorman | A Writing Boost

Saturday 15 & 22 February | 10.30am-3.30pm

Cost £75 full, £70 concession | Tutor: Damian Gorman

Two inspirational days designed to strengthen your writerly impulses and nurture your morale. One of Ireland’s most acclaimed poets and playwrights, and a creative writing mentor with over thirty years’ experience, Damian understands what “gets in our road” as writers, and how these things might be removed. This friendly writing boost welcomes writers at all levels, and in all genres.

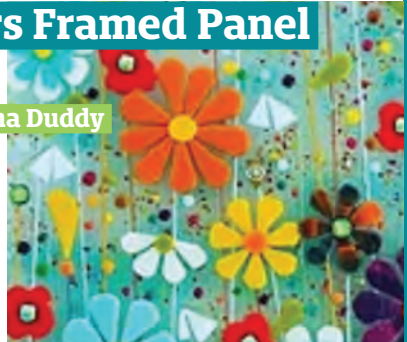


Fused Glass Spring Flowers Framed Panel

Saturday 22 February | 10am-1pm

Cost: £55 full, £50 concession | Tutor: Natasha Duddy

Design and create your own beautiful glass art decorative panel, inspired by a floral theme. Choose colours to compliment your home or match your favourite flower colours.



Fused Glass Landscape Framed Panel

Saturday 15 March | 10am-1pm

Cost: £55 full, £50 concession | Tutor: Natasha Duddy

Bob Speers' 'Thin Place' exhibition (Pg 5), design and create, design and create a fused glass landscape. Explore layers of natural tones of colour and textures to create that sense of depth within the boglands.



Abstract Landscape Masterclass

Saturday 22 March | 10am-3pm

Cost: £60 full, £55 concession | Tutor: Stuart Quigley

Landscape painter Stuart Quigley delivers this very special masterclass exploring personal interpretations of the environment with a view to abstracting it in varying degrees. Using acrylic paint, collage and mixed media, this masterclass is suitable for painters with some experience. Visit our website for full details.



Mother's Day Vase

Saturday 29 March | 10.30am-12.30pm

Cost: £45 full, £42 concession | Tutor: Fiona Shannon

Design and make your own ceramic vase which you can use as a centrepiece for your Spring table.



Fused Glass Easter Egg Hanging Decorations

Saturday 5 April | 1-3pm

Cost: £45 full, £42 concession | Tutor: Natasha Duddy

Design and produce three unique glass egg decorations to decorate your home.





**"A very therapeutic, enjoyable experience.
Everyone was so friendly."**

Sculpt Your Pet Pottery

Saturday 5 April | 10am-1pm

Cost: £45 full, £42 concession |

Tutor: Fiona Shannon

Fiona demonstrates a range of clay hand-building and sculpting techniques for you to sculpt your pet from a photograph. It's always a sell-out so book early!



Spring Textile Retreat

Tuesday 8 & Wednesday 9 April | 10am- 3.30pm

Cost: £90 full, £80 concession | Tutor: Janey Moffatt

Led by Janey Moffatt, this two-day textile retreat guides you through a variety of textile techniques, including natural dyeing, cyanotype and screen printing. Designed for you to go at your own pace and create what you want - be it a swatch book with notes for future projects, or a completed tote bag. Visit our website for full details.



Tiffany-Style Glass Floating Fish

Saturday 26 April | 10am-1.30pm

Cost: £60 full, £55 concession

Tutor: E-J McCartney

Suitable for beginners or those more experienced in glass, create your own beautiful glass fish to display - a wooden stand is provided.



> “These events are so meaningful and fun, such a lovely way to take time for ourselves and meet other like-minded mums.”

Mums Meet and Make



This series of creative workshops is specifically designed for new parents, giving you the opportunity to tap into your creativity, relax, and practice mindfulness.

These workshops are enriching, enjoyable and budget-friendly and offer new mums the chance to foster friendships that will last a lifetime. After each workshop, we encourage you to stay and enjoy some refreshments.

Silk Painting With Elaine Harknes

Thursday 23 January | 9.30-11am | Cost: £8

Create your own vibrant silk painting in this beginner-friendly workshop. Learn simple techniques to design and paint a stunning piece of silk art that you can proudly display in your home.

Ceramic Trinket Dishes and Hanging Ornaments With Fiona Shannon

Wednesday 19 February | 9.30-11am | Cost £8

Hand-mould clay into trinket dishes and hanging ornaments, imprinting them with unique patterns or the precious imprints of your baby's tiny footprint or thumbprint.

International Women's Day Yoga for Mums With North Coast Yoga

Friday 7 March | 11.30-12.30 | Cost £8

Celebrate International Women's Day in a joyful session blending relaxation, gentle movements, and connection alongside your little ones. This yoga session is suitable for mums who are at least 3 months postpartum.

Glass Painting With Natasha Duddy

Thursday 10 April | 9.30-11am | Cost £8

Design and paint a gorgeous glass tealight holder.

These workshops are suitable for those with children under 1 who are not yet mobile or who will sit in a pram or car seat throughout. Flowerfield is proudly breastfeeding-friendly, and baby-changing is available.



Artbeat Creative Care Programme



January-April 2025

Are you an adult carer or have you been personally impacted by cancer (either diagnosed yourself or supporting a family member with cancer)? Throughout January to April, we will be delivering a range of creative workshops in various artistic mediums solely for you to take time out, enjoy some creative therapeutic activity and connect with others who have similar life experiences.

These workshops are subsidised by the Northern Health & Social Care Trust so will have minimal participation fees. All materials will be provided. Details of workshops will be publicised on our website and social media platforms.

Please register your interest by emailing reception@flowerfield.org or give us a call on Tel: 028 7083 1400. Your contact details will be treated with the strictest confidence.



Sound Connections

Are you aged 18-25 years and a singer/songwriter or in a band? We want to support emerging local musicians by providing FREE rehearsal space on Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 7-9pm on specific dates when our auditorium may be free. Interested? Contact reception@flowerfield.org or call us on Tel: 028 7083 1400